



# Midwest Arts & Culture Press Tour

September 4-7, 2008



# NEBRASKA

possibilities...endless<sup>SM</sup>

## Midwest Arts & Culture Press Tour Sept. 4-7, 2008 Preliminary Itinerary/Response Form



Left to right: Haymarket district, Hot Shops Art Center, Old Market and Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

Please complete this form and email it back to [sbaker@visitnebraska.org](mailto:sbaker@visitnebraska.org) or fax it attention: Sarah Baker at 402-471-3026 **at your earliest convenience, prior to the August 1 deadline.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES!** I would like to attend the Sept. 4-7, 2008 Midwest Arts & Culture press tour.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I cannot attend the press tour, but I would like information about future tours.

<b>Name:</b>	
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Response form continues...please choose your optional activities from the following pages...

#### **Thursday, Sept. 4:**

Evening Arrive in Omaha and enjoy a complimentary welcome reception. Special guests from Omaha's art community will greet guests at the reception, to be held in the lobby of Omaha's boutique hotel, **The Magnolia**. The reception will feature heavy hors'doeuvres and a cash bar, as well as live entertainment.

#### **Friday, Sept. 5:**

Morning Tour Omaha's flourishing **North Downtown** neighborhood (affectionately known by locals as "NoDo.") The area is home to the multi-million dollar **Qwest Center Omaha**, the **Hot Shops Art Center** and sculpture garden and the **Slowdown** development, home to **Urban Outfitters**, the **Slowdown** bar and music venue and **Film Streams**. Take a quick spin through Omaha's historic **Old Market District** and enjoy some of the city's best nightlife, shopping and dining spots.

☆ ***Did you know?** Omaha's Old Market was, in the 1880s, a manufacturing, industrial, warehouse and wholesale jobbing area. It now bustles as one of the city's most vibrant and architecturally significant urban neighborhoods.*

Afternoon Enjoy lunch at the **Nebraska Arts Council offices**. Meet local artists who benefit from NAC's statewide assistance, and hear a bit about why the organization is so important to the state. Take a peek inside the latest exhibit at NAC's **Fred Simon Gallery**. After lunch, enjoy some free time strolling around the shops and sights in Omaha's **Old Market**. Be ready to depart hotel by 4 p.m.

Evening Arrive in Nebraska's capitol city, Lincoln, and attend an art opening at the **Sheldon Art Gallery**, which holds one of the country's best collections of 20<sup>th</sup> century masterpieces. After the opening, enjoy a delicious meal at one of the city's finest restaurants.

Lincoln's historic **Haymarket District** is home to a handful of art hot spots. Participating galleries and a list of shows opening that night will be mailed before your arrival. After the openings, head back to downtown Omaha accommodations.

#### **Saturday, Sept. 6:**

Morning Complimentary breakfast at accommodations

#### **Please select ONE from the following optional afternoon activities:**

Explore **Historic Brownville**, about one hour south of Omaha, one of the area's best examples of thriving small town life. Brownville, founded in 1854, makes the best of its artsy, liberal community by embracing all things cultural. It's a friendly slice of small town life with a dash of big city style, grace and class.

First, stroll along the town's quaint main street, where you'll find shopping delights in bookstores, antique stores and art galleries. Reconvene after shopping for a bite at the **Lyceum**, the town's restaurant and bookstore in one. Finally, enjoy some vintage Nebraska at the village's **Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard and Winery**, where a sample is definitely in order as you relax on the sunny deck. ([www.brownville-ne.com](http://www.brownville-ne.com))

☆ **Did you know?** *Richard Booth of Hay-on-Wye, Wales, designated Brownville as a Book Town USA in 2004. Booth started the International Book Towns movement in 1961. Only about 20 small towns and villages around the world can claim the esteemed title.*

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Celebrate Nebraska's past with a visit to **The Winnebago Indian Reservation** in the northern half of Thurston County in northeastern Nebraska. The largest community on the Reservation is the **Village of Winnebago**. Located on the eastern side of the Reservation, Winnebago is home to most Winnebago tribal members and accounts for almost thirty percent of the Reservation's resident population. The town of about 800 is experiencing a cultural revolution of sorts, and its home base is the **Woodland Trails Arts Center**. Pay a visit to the center and see the gallery spaces, second floor artist studio spaces and children's learning center. Meet the center's director, **Garan Coons**, a twenty something member of the Winnebago Tribe working to bring his community together through art. ([www.woodlandtrailsart.com](http://www.woodlandtrailsart.com)).

Visit with some artists who call Winnebago home and learn how their visual art, sculpture and dance performances are inspired by the area's Native American history and culture, and then enjoy a catered lunch of traditional Native American cuisine.

After lunch, tour the **Honoring the Clans Sculpture Garden** and learn about the majestic Indian spiritual leaders represented through figurative sculpture. Before leaving the development, peruse the **All Native gift shop**, also part of the **Ho-Chunk Village** mixed-use development and another venue for Native American artists to sell handmade jewelry, native crafts and art.

Finally, depart the center to visit sacred buffalo ground a few miles outside of town, where we will learn about Native American folklore and the importance of the culture's oral storytelling tradition and song.

☆ **Did you know?** *The Winnebago Tribe has, through the years, lived in northeast Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, before ending up in Nebraska, where the Winnebago Indian Reservation came to exist through treaties of 1874 and 1965.*

Evening      Back in Omaha, enjoy dinner in midtown, the heart of the city.

\_\_\_\_\_Return to accommodations

or optional evening activity:

\_\_\_\_\_ Experience Omaha's burgeoning independent film scene at **Film Streams**. Take in the latest new release or a classic film from one of their regular ongoing reparatory film series, in the past curated by the likes of NPR's **Kurt Anderson** and film director **Alexander Payne** ("Election," "Sideways," "About Schmidt"). Follow up the movie with a beverage and time to relax at **Slowdown, Saddle Creek Records'** venue and bar located next door to the theater.

([www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org) and [www.theslowdown.com](http://www.theslowdown.com)).

☆ **Did you know?** *Saddle Creek Records, Omaha's best known independent record label, represents more than 20 bands, most notably Conor Oberst, who has toured the world with his ever changing lineup, Bright Eyes.*

### **Sunday, Sept. 7:**

Morning      Rise and shine to enjoy brunch at one of the city's Sunday morning hot spots, the **Dixie Quicks Magnolia Room**. Chef **Rene Orduna** delights with his southern inspired food (grits come with anything you order, if you so choose) and quirky additions to the menu: oatmeal and ice cream, anyone? After eating, peruse **Rob Gilmer's RNG Gallery**, next door to the restaurant, continually featuring new and challenging exhibits.

### **Please select ONE from the following optional afternoon activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit downtown Omaha's **Durham Museum** for a slice of history: The former Art Deco rail depot is restored to glamorous beauty and has one of the city's largest photo archives of images of Omaha and its surrounding communities. Then check out the **Joslyn Art Museum's** noted collection of **Karl Bodmer** nature prints, which chronicle the area's native flora and fauna as well as its Native American history. ([www.dwhm.org](http://www.dwhm.org) and [www.joslyn.org](http://www.joslyn.org).)

☆ **Did you know?** *Bodmer painted many Native Americans. The Joslyn's collection includes images of Wahktagei, a Yankton Sioux Chief; Chan-Chä-Uiá-Teüin, a Teton Sioux Woman; and Mató-Tópe (Four Bears), Mandan Chief, among many others.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Tour some of the city's most progressive art establishments, dedicated to promoting and supporting the city's young creative class. The **Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts** has a world-renowned artist-in-residence program and is also home to the **Bemis Underground**, where young artists can curate and install their own shows, free of charge. Across the street, tour the soon-to-open Museum Kaneko, where Omaha resident and world-famous artist **Jun Kaneko** creates work and aims to eventually create a cultural center for artists and art lovers alike.

Finally, visit **historic Benson**, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, currently experiencing a cultural resurgence: Galleries, restaurants, nightclubs, coffee shops, stores... you name it, Benson has it.

☆ **Did you know?** Founded in 1887 by entrepreneur Erasmus Benson, Omaha annexed the former small town in 1917. Centrally located in what is now considered the “heart” of Omaha, the community is a center for historic buildings, parks and cultural diversity.

Evening      Dinner on your own in downtown Omaha. Enjoy the wide selection of cuisine: Indian, American, Italian, pub favorites, French or Mexican: the Old Market is a diner’s paradise. See enclosed list of recommended restaurants.

**Monday, Sept. 8:**

Morning      Complimentary breakfast at accommodations

Check out of accommodations and meet in lobby with luggage to depart.